

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02017 041705Z  
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SSO-00 /019 W  
-----019343 041708Z /43  
O 041540Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8276

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2017

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

AF FOR HARROP AND AF/E FOR POST

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, ET, FR, US, SO  
SUBJECT: ETHIO-WESTERN RELATIONS; STATUS OF AGREEMENT REQUESTS

1. I ATTENDED SMALL LUNCH MAY 4 GIVEN BY FOREIGN MINISTER FELLEKE FOR DEPARTING FRENCH AMBASSADOR YVES BARBIER. FRENCH NO. 2, WHO PROVIDED TO FILL ME IN MORE ON BARBIER'S MAY 3 MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN MENGISTU DURING CALL TOMORROW, SAID IT WAS "CORDIAL" BUT IMPLIED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE EMERGED. BARBIER TOOK UP INTER ALIA PERMISSION FOR RETURN OF FRENCH PERSONNEL TO CONSULATE IN DIRE DAWA AND AGREEMENT FOR NEW AMBASSADOR. IN BOTH CASES MENGISTU SAID HE WOULD GIVE ORDERS TO HAVE MATTERS TAKEN CARE OF. FRENCH, REALIZING THIS IS CHARACTERISTIC ETHIOPIAN MANNER OF POSTPONING DECISIONS, ARE ENCOURAGED BUT NOT ENTIRELY CONFIDENT OF SATISFACTORY OUTCOME(S). IN ANY EVENT, FRENCH AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE FOR THIS WEEK.

2. MOFA AMERICAS DIVISION HEAD BERHANE DERESSE TOLD ME HE IS WORKING HARD AT GETTING ME APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NOW THAT CHAIRMAN MENGISTU, FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHERS ARE  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 02017 041705Z

BACK IN COUNTRY FOR AWHILE, THEREBY IMPLYING MOFA WOULD BE RETURNING TO MORE ROUTINE BUSINESS. HE SAID HE HOPES, THROUGH SUCH CONVERSATION, I CAN GET THE "FC CASE BACK ON TRACK." HE REITERATED THAT HE FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO BE ONLY ONE MAKING CASE FOR AMERICAN SIDE AND THAT IS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR MINISTER TO SEE ME. BERHANE, AS WE KNOW, WAS KICKED OFF OF LIST FOR TRIP TO CUBA AT LAST MINUTE, AND IS SHOWING CONTINUED IF NOT INCREAS-

ING SIGNS OF IMPOTENCE AND FRIGHT. I AM MORE AND MORE  
CONVINCED THAT PMGSE IS NOT RPT NOT INALTERABLY OPPOSED TO  
GRANTING AGREEMENT BUT FINDS IT EMBARRASSING TO TAKE POSTIVE  
STEP AT THIS TIME AND HOPES QUESTION CAN BE HELD IN ABEYANCE  
INDEFINITELY.

3. BERHANE ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE WAS THANKFUL I HAD  
BRIEFED HIM ON DICK MOOSE VISIT TO MOGADISCIO AND ASKED THAT HE  
INFORMED AHEAD OF TIME IF THERE ARE ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS  
IN US ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH SIAD, THEREBY IMPLYING PMGSE  
REACTION WOULD BE Milder THAN IF LEARNED FIRST THROUGH PRESS  
OR RADIO.

4. FELLEKE WAS UNUSUALLY INARTICULATE IN VERY SHORT AFTER  
LUNCH TOAST WITH A FEW NICE REMARKS ABOUT TRADITIONAL FRANCO-  
ETHIOPIAN FRIENDSHIP AND CONTINUING MUTUAL INTERESTS WITHOUT  
MENTIONING DJIBOUTI IN PARTICULAR. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY ILL AT EASE  
DURING ENTIRE AFFAIR, BUT IT IS, NEVERTHELESS, IMPORTANT  
IN CURRENT ENVIRONMENT THAT PMGSE IS STILL INTERESTED IN  
MAINTAINING SYMBOLISM OF OPEN DOOR TO THOSE WESTERN  
COUNTRIES WHO ONLY RECENTLY WERE ACCUSED OF CARRYING OUT  
MENACING NAVAL MANEUVERS OOF ETHIOPIAN SHORES.

5. IF MEETING WITH FELLEKE DOES NOT COME THROUGH, IT WOULD  
SEEM TO INDICATE BERHANE DERESSE IS REALLY ON THE OUTS. IF IT  
DOES, I BELIEVE I SHOULD REVIEW OUR CONCERN OVER TREND IN BILA-  
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PAGE 03 ADDIS 02017 041705Z

TERAL RELATIONS SINCE AARON VISIT, CITING EXAMPLES, AND WONDER-  
ING WHAT HAS BECOME OF REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT -- BUT NOT INDI-  
CATING PMGSE WOULD BE DOING A SPECIAL FAVOR ABOVE AND BEYOND  
CARRYING OUT NORMAL DIP RELATIONS BY GRANTING IT. YOUR SUGGEST-  
IONS WILL BE MOST WELCOME.

6. I REALIZE ABOVE IS ALL VERY INCONCLUSIVE BUT WANT  
YOU TO BE AWARE THAT SEA IS NOT TOTALLY BECALMED FROM THIS  
PERSPECTIVE AND THAT THERE ARE A FEW BREEZES WITH A STRAW  
OR TWO.  
MATHERON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGREEMENT, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ADDIS02017  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X4  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS, STADIS  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 2797807  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ETHIO-WESTERN RELATIONS; STATUS OF AGREEMENT REQUESTS  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PDIP, ET, FR, US, SO, (BERHANE DERESSE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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